

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A gas nozzle for a welding torch, which is made of copper or a copper alloy, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising an artificially produced patina layer (8) at least on a partial area of its surface.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A welding torch including a gas nozzle, a nozzle assembly and a contact tube, wherein the gas nozzle and/or the nozzle assembly and/or the contact tube are made of copper or a copper alloy, ~~characterized in that the gas nozzle (2) and/or the nozzle assembly (3) and/or the contact tube (4) comprise~~ comprising an artificially produced patina layer (8) at least on a partial area of the respective surface.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A gas nozzle and a welding torch according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein said patina layer (8) has a thickness ranging between 50 and 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A gas nozzle and a welding torch according to ~~one or several of preceding claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said patina layer (8) is provided over the entire surface.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device for a welding torch and, in particular, its gas nozzle, which includes a brush provided with bristles for cleaning the welding torch of weld spatter; ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bristles (9) of the brush (7) are formed of a very soft, elastic material, preferably a synthetic material, and that abrasives (11) are embedded in the bristles (9).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bristles (9) are provided with a coating (10) in which said abrasives (11) are embedded.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the diameter (12), or outer periphery, of the brush (7) is larger than the diameter (13), or outer periphery, of the gas nozzle (2) of the welding torch (1).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the bristles (9) of the brush (7) have a length ranging between 15 mm and 50 mm.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to ~~one or several of preceding claims 5 to 8~~ claim 5, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the central axis (14) of the brush (7) in the cleaning position is arranged in alignment with the central axis (15) of the gas nozzle (2) and welding torch 1, respectively.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to ~~one or several of preceding claims 5 to 8~~ claim 5, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the central axis (14) of the brush (7) in the cleaning position encloses an angle (16) of between 120° and 160° with the central axis of the gas nozzle (2) and welding torch (1), respectively.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to ~~one or several of preceding claims 5 to 10~~ claim 5, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the brush (7) carries out a rotational movement in respect to the gas nozzle (7) and welding torch (1), respectively, preferably in the counter direction to an optional

rotational movement of the gas nozzle (7) and welding torch (1), respectively.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the brush (7) carries out an eccentric rotational movement.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to ~~one or several of preceding claims 5 to 13~~ claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bristles (9) have different lengths with different coherent regions being preferably provided.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bristles (9) in a region in the center of the brush (7) are shorter than in the peripheral edge region or vice versa.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the region of the brush (7) corresponding to the projection of the gas nozzle (2) has shorter bristles (9) than the remaining region of the brush (7).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to ~~one or several of preceding claims 5 to 16~~ claim 5, ~~characterized~~

~~in that~~ wherein the bristles (9) of the brush (7) are comprised of one, or a combination, of the materials silicon carbide, polyvinyl chloride, nylon, polyamide, polypropylene, polyethylene or fibre.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to ~~one or several of preceding claims 5 to 15~~ claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bristles (9) are designed to be corrugated or plaited.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A cleaning device according to ~~one or several of preceding claims 5 to 17~~ claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a projection surrounding the bristles (9) over a partial region of their length is arranged in the edge region of the brush (7).